



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume LI

Number 5

May 2026

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

## Calendar

May 13, General meeting, John R Williams High School. Meadow Ave., Stockton. 6:30 pm (pg 1& 2).

May 20, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, 6:30 pm (pg 4).

May 27, Open fly tying Oak Grove Nature Ctr. 6:00 pm. (see pg 3 for details)

## Condolences

For a second month and with great sadness, we announce the passing of a long-term member Jon Keagy on April 24. John and Karen were active club members, participating in events and as club officers. (see pg 11)

## Club Announcements

- The next installment of Tim Costello's. An Introduction to Fly Tying will be in the June newsletter
- *Celebrating 50 years promoting fly fishing, conservation and comradery!*

## Next Delta Fly Fisher General Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, May 13th

**Location:** John R Williams School, 2450 Meadow Ave. Stockton

**Time:** 6:30—8:00 PM (or thereabouts)

Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. All are welcome! Open to the public!

**Presentation Information:** Our guest speaker will be Mike Pease. Mike is an Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing guide who is a Northern California native and lifelong explorer of the Lost Sierra. Mike's talk is on Nymphing from A to Z where he describes the different techniques for fishing these flies. (See pg 2)

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# Upcoming Events with Delta Fly Fishers

By Bob Fujimura



**Friday Night Casting Session – Friday May 1:** Monthly casting instruction resumes at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S Hutchins St, Lodi, CA from 5 to 7 pm. FCSD Bronze and Silver courses will be available, but we can work on anything you want! There will be loaner rods and eye protection available. All participants must have a 2026 liability waiver signed and on file. All instruction is free and open to the public. All Friday night casting nights are shifted an hour later (6-8) if the temperatures reach 100 degrees so please watch the thermometer throughout the summer. Contact Amy Terra for more information on this monthly session.

**Women's Fly Fishing Weekend – Friday May 8 – Sunday May 10:** Spend the weekend relaxing in Dena's cabin and exploring local waters including the One Fly Contest location at White Pines. Stay in Dena's cabin and enjoy family style meals and local restaurants. On Friday night we usually eat a light dinner and fish White Pines at dusk. Saturday, we participate in the One Fly Contest at White Pines and a communal dinner. Sunday morning is Mother's Day so many of us head home but some of us go and fish some more. The guarantees for this weekend are great company, fun fishing and lots of yummy food. Let Dena know you are coming!

**One Fly Contest – Saturday May 9:** Join the fun with the Calaveras Fly Fishers in a friendly angling contest - how many or the biggest fish caught with a single fly. Your entrance fee helps a local scholarship fund. If you are an advanced fisher, you can help retain one of the awards for our club. If you are new to stillwater fly fishing, watch our best anglers and learn their secrets. Please RSVP Bob Fujimura by email at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 329-1692 if you are planning to attend or if you have questions. For information on the event can be found in last month's April DFF newsletter issue and this issue.

**Free Casting Classes in SF Park – Saturday May 9:** Attend free casting lessons at Golden Gate Casting Ponds at 1232 John F Kennedy Dr. San Francisco, CA 94122. Lessons run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Rods available for loan for the lessons. Clinics available for all levels of casting led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club of San Francisco. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website. A few of the DFF officers and members participate in this monthly GGACC event; contact Amy Terra at (209) 329-4801 for more information on this event.

**General Membership Meeting – Wednesday May 13:** Our guest speaker will be Mike Pease. Mike is an Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing guide who is a Northern California native and lifelong explorer of the Lost Sierra. He is a trained educator and graduate of the Clearwater Guide School who focuses on sharing his expertise with his clients. He founded Feather River Fly Fishing School and Mike

(continued on pg 3)

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(continued from pg 2)

Pease Adventures. Mike also teaches a fly-fishing class at CSU Sacramento. Mike also is a writer for California Fly Fisher magazine. Mike's talk is on Nymphing from A to Z where he describes the different techniques for fishing these flies.



**DFE Officers**



President  
Vacant  
Vice President  
Dena Mason  
Secretary

209-368-5767  
209-482-8742  
209-200-9739

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ta  
209-368-5767

Come meet Mike before the meeting and share dinner with him at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 5733 Pacific Ave, Stockton starting at 5 pm. Contact Randy Baxter at (209) 200-9739 or email at [randy.baxter23@gmail.com](mailto:randy.baxter23@gmail.com) to let him know that you are coming.

Meetings are held each month at the John R Williams Elementary School, 2450 Meadow Ave. Stockton. We will have the usual fishing reports, fun raffles, business reports, snacks and refreshments. Doors open at 6:30 PM; the business meeting begins at 7 PM. The public is also welcome and bring a friend. Vice President Dena Mason is seeking donations of old fly fishing magazines for her educational youth outreach.

**Alpine Lake Outing – Saturday May 16:** Greg Pettis hosts a fly fishing outing to this waterbody – call Greg at (209) 609-8605 for more information.

**Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday May 20:** The executive officers and interested volunteers will meet and discuss club business. We are fortunate that new members are joining our Executive Team and existing members are accepting new roles in 2026. However, we need more volunteers to make this year a successful one. It is a good time to get familiar with the business side of the club and its most active members. All club members are welcome to join us at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. Contact Vice President Dena Mason at (209) 662-3079 for more information on this meeting and how to enter and exit the Park after hours.

Chair needed  
NCCFFI Representative  
Bob Fujimura  
Outings  
Bob Fujimura  
Programs  
Chair needed  
Property/Historian  
Charlie Reames  
Refreshments  
Mike Dempewolf  
Rx Fly Fishing!  
Randy Baxter  
Trout Bout (November)  
Charlie Reames  
Webmaster  
Amy Terra

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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:  
The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.  
PO Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207-7862



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**Open Fly Tying Session – Wednesday May 27**

**CANCELLED:** Host Bob Fujimura is unable to host this monthly gathering of your fellow members due to his annual fishing trip to Eastern Nevada. However, look forward to next month's session on Wednesday June 24.

**Friday Night Casting Session – Friday June 5:**

Monthly casting instruction resumes at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S Hutchins St, Lodi, CA from 5 to 7 pm. FCSD Bronze and Silver courses will be available, but we can work on anything you want! There will be loaner rods and eye protection available. All participants must have a 2026 liability waiver signed and on file. All instruction is free and open to the public. All Friday night casting nights are shifted an hour later (6-8) if the temperatures reach 100 degrees so please watch the thermometer throughout the summer. Contact Amy Terra for more information on this monthly session.

**Catfish Derby – Saturday June 6:** Come out and assist DFF role to help the San Joaquin Park & Rec run the contest registration and weigh-in of trophy catfish and provide food and drinks to families who fish at the annual event. Prizes will be awarded in youth and adult categories. Kids aged 15 years and younger fish for catfish FREE at Oak Grove's 10-acre lake during the event. There is no registration fee, however, a \$5 fishing permit fee and valid CA. fishing license are required for those sixteen (16) years of age or over. A \$6 vehicle-parking fee will also apply. All State Fish and Game laws apply. Participants must supply their own fishing equipment and pre-register before the end of the contest.

**Annual DFF BBQ – Wednesday June 10:** Come to the second most popular DFF social event of the year. Enjoy a nice outdoor meal with your fellow DFF members and their families. Open to DFF members only but it is easy to join. More details on this BBQ and Potluck in the June 2026 issue of the DFF Newsletter.

**Manzanita Lake Outing – Friday June 12 – Sunday June 14:**

Amy Terra is hosting a Wufflies Plus outing. Lake Manzanita is a float tube or pontoon boat friendly lake full of gorgeous fish in one of the world's most beautiful settings. Amy has made campsite arrangement for the women's group but all members are welcome to make their own camping or lodging arrangements and join the fishing. No charge other than the National Park entry fee. Contact Amy for more information and discuss group meal options.

**Free Casting Classes in SF Park – Saturday June 13:**

Attend free casting lessons at Golden Gate Cast-

ing Ponds at 1232 John F Kennedy Dr. San Francisco, CA 94122. Lessons run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Rods available for loan for the lessons. Clinics available for all levels of casting led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club of San Francisco. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website. A few of the DFF officers and members participate in this monthly GGACC event; contact Amy Terra at (209) 329-4801 for more information on this event.

**Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday June 17:**

The executive officers and interested volunteers will meet and discuss club business. We are fortunate that new members are joining our Executive Team and existing members are accepting new roles in 2026. However, we need more volunteers to make this year a successful one. It is a good time to get familiar with the business side of the club and its most active members. All club members are welcome to join us at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. Contact Vice President Dena Mason at (209) 662-3079 for more information on this meeting and how to enter and exit the Park after hours.

**Rancho Seco Outing – Friday June 19:** Amy Terra is hosting another Wufflies Plus outing. This location has been an annual outing destination. Rancho Seco is a small local lake that has bluegill, crappie and bass. Some years we catch bunches. Some years not so much. The Wufflies are planning to be there from 9 to lunch at noon. However, all members are welcome to come and fish. There are park entry, fishing, and boat launching fees and golden mussel check for all watercrafts. There is no gas motors allowed. Let Amy know if you are coming and if you have any questions: 209-329-4801

**Open Fly Tying Session – Wednesday June 24:**

Join other DFF members as they meet at Nature Center every fourth Wednesday evening for a no-host fly tying session. It will be a monthly opportunity to tie with your fellow members, sharing the latest fishing stories, and hang out with new and old friends. This will be a free event and open to club members from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Oak Grove Regional Park's Nature Center, Eight-Mile Road, Stockton. Bob Fujimura will be sharing another fly of the month pattern. There should be light enough to practice your fly casting if you rather do this activity.

Contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) for more information on this event and how to enter and exit the Park gates. Beginners should not hesitate to attend. Please contact Bob at least 48 hrs ahead of time if you need individual instruction or use of the club's loaner equipment.



# Wulffies are ready to fish in 2026!

By Amy Terra

The Wulffies had a relaxing and fun Fishmas Brunch. We met several new anglers to the Wulffies from [Sisters on the Fly](#). Sisters on the Fly is an outdoor adventure group for women. They hold a variety of events for their vast membership but the initial activities of Sisters were vintage trailer camping and fly fishing. This is a perfect fit for collaboration between our fly fishing Wulffies and the Sisters that want to include fly fishing in their adventures. Overall, we had a dozen women gather and connect over yummy food. A special thanks to the Fly Corner at Lodi Cyclery for hosting this event.

## May

The One Fly Weekend is **May 8-10th**. Participants will stay at Dena's Arnold cabin. Friday night we usually eat a light dinner and fish White Pines at dusk. Saturday we participate in the One Fly Contest at White Pines and a communal dinner. The die-hards often go fishing again in the evening. Sunday morning is Mother's Day so many of us head home but some of us go and fish some more. The guarantees for this weekend are great company, fun fishing and lots of yummy food. Let Dena know you are coming!

## June

June is when we really get our fishing going.

**June 12th-14th** is our Lake Manzanita outing. Amy has a campsite in the national park. The

limit on the site is 6 people including 2 cars and 3 tents. Amy has one car slot occupied but everything else is up for grabs. Lake Manzanita is a float tube or pontoon boat friendly lake full of gorgeous fish in one of the world's most beautiful settings. Let Amy know if you want a car spot or tent spot. No charge other than the National Park entry fee. If we get enough people, we can arrange food plans together. 209-329-4801



**June 19th** is our annual Rancho Seco outing. Rancho Seco is a small local lake that has blue gill, crappie and bass. Some years we catch bunches. Some years not so much. We always have a fun lunch. This outing is from 9 to lunch at noon. There is a park entry fee and golden mussel check for all watercraft. There are no gas motors allowed. Questions? 209-329-4801

**June 29th to July 1st** is our Yosemite outing. It appears the cabin is full with a waiting list started. However, if you are able to arrange your own lodging, all activities are available to unlimited participants. We will have a list of destinations in and out of the park for us to visit and fish over the three days. Let Amy know if you want to be added to the waiting list or have your own lodging and want to join us in the activities. (209)329-4801

## July

July

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will be our always popular smallmouth bass outing with Bryce Tedford on **Friday the 10th**. This outing is limited to 4 anglers who will spend a half day fishing with the amazing Bryce. The cost is \$100 per angler. Fishing is great for anglers of all experience levels. Contact Amy at 209-329-4801 to sign up. This one fills quickly so don't delay!

Look for a monthly fly tying group to be held at Lodi Cyclery. We have several people interested in completing FFI's tying skills program. FFI has levels of tying skills similar to the casting program and several Wulffies want to see how far they can go in developing tying skills. We will send out an announcement of specific dates but we are looking for a Saturday morning a month. More info

**[The following content is from a previous newsletter and may no longer represent current planning. Ed. ]**

## **AUGUST**

In **August** we will have surf fishing and a 108/395/205 road trip.

Also in August, our sister club, the Fresno Fly Fishers are holding their first annual Women's Fly Fishing Academy on August 1st at Cedar Grove. I am heading down to help with casting instruction and am going to try to explore a little of the angling in the area. They are looking for more women anglers to share their skills and have a fun time so if you are interested in an adventure- reach out to Keryn at 559-385-0909.

## **SEPTEMBER**

**September** is TBD- Thinking about a Yuba adventure... more info to come!

## **OCTOBER**

**October** will be a resurrection of Bridgeport outing from the 5th to the 8th. We have one hotel room booked and two guided days with Andrew- our favorite Bridgeport guide! Two spots of the 2

guided days (4 anglers total) are booked so let Amy know if you are interested. 209-329-4801. This trip requires a deposit for the guide fee in advance of the trip.

## **NOVEMBER**

**November** we will have a beginner fly tying class.

## **DECEMBER**

**December** is our Tying Day on Dec 5th!

Emails and texts will be going out to those who have signed up for outings to verify interest. Our most popular outings have waitlists and we want to make sure everyone has accurate information and the opportunity to participate. Any outing requiring a guide payment will require that you deposit the guide fee a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of the trip. This deposit is non-refundable but is transferable if you are able to identify a replacement for your spot. We do this to ensure guides receive their compensation for the day's booking. Any ideas, questions or concerns? Call Amy at 209-329-4801.

# This Month's Fly Box

## FLY TYING

### Walt's Worm



Photo from Risen Fly Fishing

By Bob Fujimura

Caddis nymph or pupa patterns have been underutilized in my fly tying collection. However, I began researching this pattern after hearing the response of the guest speaker at a recent Amador Flyfishers meeting. Noted tyer Tim Flagler said it was one of his top flies that he commonly fishes. Walt Young's fly is relatively easy to tie as either an unweighted or with bead heads.

My tying was most influenced by Domenick Swentosky - whose Troutbitten Fly Box video stressed the simplicity of fur nymphs, recommended non-beaded versions with little or no flashy material or hot spots. His video can be viewed at: [https://](https://troutbitten.com/2026/03/12/video-troutbitten-fly-box-fur-nymphs-walts-worm-as-a-platform-blending-dubbing-and-more/)

[troutbitten.com/2026/03/12/video-troutbitten-fly-box-fur-nymphs-walts-worm-as-a-platform-blending-dubbing-and-more/](https://troutbitten.com/2026/03/12/video-troutbitten-fly-box-fur-nymphs-walts-worm-as-a-platform-blending-dubbing-and-more/).

Mike Komara also chooses simpler and less flashy versions and makes good arguments for do so in his Innovative Angling video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x70i1rSsbCw>.

If you prefer to tie the more popular jig versions of this fly, Tim Flagler of Tightlinevideo Productions provides excellent instruction on the jugged Walt's Worm and the competition Sexy Walt's patterns. Novice tyers can really benefit from Tim's close videography of his tying steps. See Tim's video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g870d2SviOU>.

My current recipe is given below:

Hook: The Fly Shop TFS 2305 size 14

Thread: 6/0 Uni Thread Camel or Semperfli Classic Waxed Red (collared)

Bead: Firehole Stones tungsten beads black nickel and copper 3.0 mm

Body: Hareline hares ear dubbing in natural, dark, and olive.

Ribbing: Hareline Krystal Flash Pearl fine and Rio Powerflex nylon tippet 5x

## On the Riffle Guide Service

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## Mettler

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### Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please e-mail [randy.baxter23@gmail.com](mailto:randy.baxter23@gmail.com)



## Casting Corner — June 2026

By Amy Terra

Our free Friday night casting sessions have begun. Our club events are drawing people from all over the local areas and we are always so excited to have people interested in putting the time into improving their casting before they step on the water. Our next session is June 5th from 5 to 7 at Hutchins Street Square. As the weather warms up, remember if the temperature reaches 100 degrees, we shift the time by an hour later to avoid the heat a little. So if the temperature reaches 100 degrees, we will start at 6 and go until 8 instead.

Now that I have had the opportunity to teach lessons for a few years, I have been able to see what people have been looking for in individual and family lessons. Sometimes it is general skill development and sometimes it is trip/style specific skills. Over this summer, I am going to be presenting articles including resources for you to focus your skill development for general skill development and also for specific trips or outings.

For this first article, I am going to provide resources that are introductory targeting newer anglers on fundamental rod movement. The activities in this article are reflective of the Foundation level of Fly Fishers International (FFI) Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) casting program.

The FCSD program has 4 levels, Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. When I have helped out with FCSD casting events, most of the time instruction begins at the Bronze level activities. However, when I have one to one or small group casters who have never touched a fly rod or are just beginning their fly fishing journey, I start with the foundation level activities.

The FCSD Foundation level includes 7 activities. The first of which is putting the rod together. This may seem silly but I have seen seasoned anglers struggle with this activity. Foundation task one lists these steps:

**F1. - Assemble Gear** :All fly fishers must be able to properly assemble gear. The following are the minimum required:

- Assemble the rod
- Attach the reel
- Line the rod and get about 1 rod length of fly line past the rod tip
- Straighten the leader

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## Contribute to the club's welfare

I was asked to put this box in the newsletter so that those club members that live at unreasonable travel times to the club's monthly meetings might have a way to contribute to the club's welfare. At their request, I've set up a group of alternative contribution amounts. Those who participate will receive a tax deductible receipt via email.

\$5   \$10   \$25   \$50

Or send a check to:  
DFF C/O Brenda McIntosh, DFF Treasurer  
5 North California Street  
Lodi, CA 95240

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Make checks payable to DFF, Salmon in the Classroom. Please include your email address. You will receive a receipt online, when the check is received.

Cal State Charity # 131478

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**F2. - Feeling the Line—Circles, Ovals, and Straights:** This is a fun way to get the feel for the rod and line! It teaches how the line does what the rod tip does, and that the angler is in control. With the fly at 20-25 ft., the angler will move the near-vertical rod in a clockwise circle (right handed caster). After about 6-8 revolutions, move the rod in a clockwise oval motion for another 6-8 revolutions. Finally, make this oval narrower back to front until the rod is moving to form the straights. This activity helps the caster to develop the ability to feel the rod bend during the casting motion and develop loop formation and control.

**F3- Horizontal Loop Formation Drill:** Starting with the fly at 25ft. The angler moves the rod in a horizontal plane (rod is parallel to the ground) with smooth acceleration through the right size arc to an abrupt stop causing loop formation. At 25ft., the right size arc may be marked by 2 cones about 12ft. apart; the angler accelerates the rod tip from one to the other. Line and leader are allowed to fall to the ground and should be relatively straight. The goal is to create a narrow, casting loop with 4ft. or less distance between fly and rod leg. The horizontal plane allows easy observation of the forward and back cast loops which should be nearly identical. It can be helpful to do this along a straight line such as stretched rope or measuring tape. This is also a great drill to do with longer lengths of line.

**F4. - Horizontal False Casting Drill:** Starting with the fly at 25 ft. the angler makes the same horizontal casting motion but does not allow the line/leader to fall. The angler must pause just long enough to allow the line to straighten, but not fall to the ground, before the next cast.

**F5. - Climb the Wall:** Starting with the fly at 25 ft. the angler will start with horizontal false casting with narrow loops and raise the rod tip in 10-20 degree increments up toward a near-vertical casting position. Narrow loops are maintained throughout. Once an angle close to vertical is reached, the caster will work back down to horizontal in like fashion. Anglers should master one length of line at a time for F3-F5 but then may work out to 30 ft. in approximate 2ft. increments (reel to the first guide above the reel).

**F6. - Cast to Targets:** The targets are both 30 ft. from the angler but 20ft apart. Starting with the fly at one target, the angler uses a series of near-vertical false casts to change direction to the other target. The fly should land within 2ft. of the center of the targets. Once the fly is delivered the fly is cast to the starting target in like fashion. Try repeating the cycle 3 times and see if 6 targets in a row can be achieved. Try challenging yourself to get as close to the targets as possible!

**F7. - 35ft. Lob or Water Tension Cast:** Starting with the fly stretched to 30 ft. behind the angler, a lob or water tension cast is made with a crisp forward stop so the line/leader land relatively straight 180 de-

(continued on pg 10)

## Local Water Orientation Clinics

With Greg Vinci

Author and guide

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grees from where it started. Adding weight to the leader just above the fly is helpful on grass.

If you are having trouble visualizing any of these casts or activities, there are [helpful videos](#) on the FFI website for all of these tasks. You may recognize the casters in these videos so look carefully! You must be a current member of FFI to access the videos. I highly recommend membership in FFI, particularly for those interested in casting skills, tying skills and overall angling

skills. FFI is holding a special membership deal in connection with Fly Fest 2026 in Redding in September. Check out the NCCFFI article about this fun event and the special FFI membership deal.

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## Bench Basics —

*By Tim Costello*



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**No content this month. Look for the next installment of Bench Basics in the June Newsletter.**

*(continued pg 12)*

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# We Are The Legacy

By Amy Terra

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My thoughts lately have been on loss. Both within the club and in my own life; many people I know and adore have completed their life's journey. Our dear Leo Gutterres passed recently and his beloved family is holding a reception on May 9th at 11:45 at 4343 N. Ashley Lane in Stockton. If you would like to attend the reception, the family has asked for RSVP's to ensure sufficient food, so text Amy at 209-329-4801 and she will forward the count to Leo's children. As most of you know, Leo was a founding member of Delta Fly Fishers. Leo would often tell the story of how he and a small group of men would meet in a bank meeting room and talk about fly fishing and plan activities. From this small group, 50 years of angling, fly fishing education and conservation was born.

So many amazing people have been a part of Delta Fly Fishers, each leaving their own unique mark through volunteerism and their contributions to club activities and efforts. Jon Keagy was one of those people. Jon was active and led so many activities and efforts for the club throughout his membership and leadership. He and his wife, Karen are amazing examples of what so many of us admire- a couple enjoying this great art of fly fishing together. My fondest memory of Jon is him pulling up to Kelsey Bass Ranch with two prams stacked on an awesome home made trailer. He got the prams down and he and Karen set out to fish. I remember this as one of the sweetest moments I have witnessed between a couple in our club. Efforts and involvement like Jon's are the reasons why the club has been successful for 50 years. He and



so many others contribute to the health and well being of the club and these efforts have been consistent for 5 decades. What a legacy to leave. From a small group meeting in a bank, countless meetings, clinics, outings and connections have been made. I sit here thinking about those that started our club's journey like Leo, and those who have breathed life into this club as it has existed through half a

century. It takes consistent quantities of contributions of time and energy to make this club the amazing quality resource it is. A special thank you to everyone who has and is stepping in to meet the current leadership and management roles of our beloved club. Let's keep the legacy alive with our efforts. Let's honor those we have lost by ensuring the future of this club. Here is to another 50 years of Delta Fly Fishers!

We are arranging a memorial gratitude gathering at The Fly Corner in Lodi Cyclery. Look for more information about this gathering to honor Leo and Jon, our current membership and leadership. There will be opportunities to learn some of Leo's legacy skills, 50th anniversary gifts and, in the 50 year tradition of this club, wonderfully amazing people. More info to come!

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# One Fly Contest

By Bob Fujimura

**Date:** Saturday May 9

**Location:** White Pines Lake near Arnold, CA on Hwy 4; approximately a 90 minute drive from Stockton.

**Summary:** Join other DFF members in a friendly fly fishing competition with the host club Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF) on their home waters. DFF members have often won both contest prizes for most trout caught,

and for the largest fish landed during this annual fly fishing tournament. Participants pay a modest entry fee of \$25 that goes toward CFF's scholarship fund for local high school students, a light breakfast, and a great tri-tip sandwich

lunch. The CFF organizers usually arrange at least one trout planting by DFW so participants have a good chance of catching several trout.

**Introduction:** White Pine Lake is a small lake with a power boat ban, free public access, and has well maintained park facilities operated by local volunteers. Typically, the lake is usually stocked with hatchery trout by the CDFW before the event. But the lake has also a healthy population of wild trout and good numbers of bass and sunfish. This event is a lot of fun and well attended by DFF members of various skill levels. Fly fishers can fish from shore or wading the lake's banks – however, the most competitive way of fishing White Pines Lakes is from a personal watercraft. Fly fishers new to fishing lakes

and other stillwater are encouraged to attend since it is a good opportunity to closely observe both clubs' best fishers and learn their basic techniques.

**Event Agenda:** The exact itinerary will be provided before the contest when the CFF organizers provide their official contest rules. However, the contest registration has starts about 7:30 am but all competitors wait until 9 am to start fishing. Many DFF participants drive up that morning (however, Wufflies usually are already there as part of their Fly Fishing Weekend), set up their crafts and tackle, partake the coffee and donuts provided by SFF, and smack-talk with the other members until the start of the contest. Participants can fish using a single fly until 1 pm and enjoy the all-you-can use buffet lunch and hear the

awards presentation afterwards. DFF host Bob Fujimura will provide the official rules and schedule after he receives your ASAP.

**The Fish:** This contest coincides with the annual CDFW hatchery trout stocking schedule and a special plant arranged by CFF. When this occurs, fly fishing can be easy and numbers of planted trout have been caught by fishers of all experience levels. When hatchery trout are scarce as in the 2022 contest, the contest can be more challenging. Resident wild rainbow or brown trout or holdover hatchery trout are usually available. However, White Pines Lake has good populations of largemouth bass, black crappie, and other sunfish.

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**Techniques:** Most serious fishers are stripping or trolling streamers, wooly buggers, or medium to small size nymphs from an intermediate or slow full sinking line. This is probably the best technique to use for beginning stillwater fishers. Indicator nymphing or dry fly fishing is possible although generally less productive. My article in the March DFF newsletter titled "How to Fish for Newly Planted Hatchery Trout" provides some great tips on how to fish this event. The recent stocking history, contest rules, and weather/water conditions often dictate the best methods for this contest. Usually, any 4-6 wt single-handed rod and reel with the above line type should be suitable for this event. A personal watercraft such as a float tube, oared pontoon boat, or pram should be well suited for fly fishing this small lake. A personal floatation device is required for floating any lake and all participants must possess a valid CDFW fishing license.

**How to Register:** Register and pay your contest fee on the day of the event. However, CFF wants an accurate head count prior to this event so the organizers can ensure that they have enough food for the lunch. If you are an DFF member who is interested in participating in this event, please notify Bob Fujimura by email at: [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or by cell (209) 329-1692 if you are planning to attend. A 2025-2026 DFF liability waiver form is also a require-

ment for participating. If you are new to fly fishing trophy trout tailwaters or a veteran fly fisher, we encourage you to join this fun event.

**Why you should attend:** If you enjoy fishing with others, it should be another fun event and a great way to get to know both Delta Fly Fishers and Calaveras Fly Fishers members. We have already 17 DFF members who have RSVPed so far. White Pines Lake is beautiful and near perfect water to stillwater fly fish. The One Fly Contest was one of my first introductions to fly fish lakes and inspired me to learn more about fishing from a float tube. I learned a lot from watching the more experienced fishers and the abundant stocked trout allowed me to return repeatedly to hone these skills. Typically past events had good weather and our CFF hosts provide an excellent lunch for participants. Holdover hatchery trout, wild trout, and resident panfish and largemouth bass provide diverse and challenging fishing for fly fishers to develop their skills.

# CONSERVATION

*By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair*

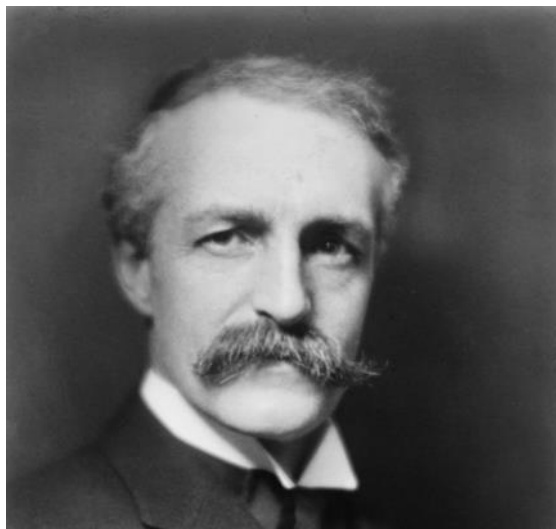
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## THE DEATH OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

In the years of writing the conservation articles for our newsletter I have come across issues that demanded immediate attention. Some of the issues just concerned fly fishing and related problems and other issues were dealing with the Delta and our environment. Now, these issues have taken on a national perspective. For just over 165 years California has struggled with water issues. We are used to that. Other states have their local concerns. Now, the Trump administration has introduced a nationwide policy that not only affects the entire nation but is catastrophic for America.

There are many sources for the club's Conservation articles. Usually a newsletter article has from 5 to 10 sources. This month's article is different, having a single source. It's a fly fishing magazine. Their articles are usually about fish, fishing and its parameters. This article is radically different. It's angry and pointed. It needs to be taken seriously and acted upon. The magazine is "The Hatch".

The US Forest Service (USFS) has served the country for 121 years. The service was started by Gillford Pinchot. Pinchot was a unique person. He was born in 1865. At the time of his birth there were no concepts nationwide of a national forestry, the forest environment, the related issues, or how to deal with the complex issues involved. As he grew, he wondered what to do with his life. At the suggestion of his father he became a forester. At that time there was no concept of what a forest really entailed or what a forester was. Educational institutions had no academic programs in place. Pinchot started



**Gillford Pinchot, first head of the Forest Service**

the federal national forestry process from an environmental perspective. He formed the USFS in 1905. His attitude, and those who followed him in the Forest Service, have been strongly pro-forest management.

During the last week of April, the Trump administration announced a policy that is effectively destroying the US Forest Service (USFS). The Forest Service operates under the Dept. of Agriculture. The Trump administration alleges the Forest Service is in need of Trump's "common sense" approach to the operation. That is hogwash. One hundred and twenty one years of Forest Service history has served America well. The Forest Service (FS) provides a successful nationwide program for our 193 million acres of national forest and all of the substructure that management requires. To understand the size of our national forest imagine an area as large as the state of Texas. The Forest Service also plays a crucial role in the forest ecosystem health, forest management, forest communities welfare, and increasingly important, fish and wildfire management.

To be straightforward I must admit being very pro-Forest Service. I had the privilege of working for them for 5 summers while in college in fire suppression. Due to my outstanding, highly motivated District Ranger, I was able to serve as the fire crew boss of native American and inmate crews, a member of the Tahoe's National Forest traveling fire team, and foremen of northern California's first Helicopter Attack Squad. I feel qualified to remark about President Trump's dismemberment of the Forest Service, disruptive forest management, and his pro-industrial ties. His current fire mitigation policies are not just poor...*they are catastrophic!*

Since last month, the FS has been gutted. The current Forest Service Chief is Tom Schultz. On March 31st he gave a press release stat-

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(continued from pg 17) ing the headquarters of the Forest Service is being moved from Washington D.C. to Salt Lake City, Utah. In his press release he also announced there will be major cuts in offices and staff. They claimed, "This is about building a Forest Service that is nimble, efficient, effective and closer to the forest and communities it serves. Frankly, Schultz is lying. Schultz was appointed by Donald Trump. He is not proposing a modified FS agenda. He is proposing a President Trump industrialization of our forests.

The Forest Service chief is in charge of managing 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 in the states. He is in charge of forest management, wildfire management and suppression, and increasing outdoor recreation within our forest. Tom Schult has no skills that make him a competent Chief of the Forest Service. Who is Tom Schultz? He is an abrupt departure from all previous Chiefs of the Forest Service. Starting with Pinchot all of the Service Chiefs have had advanced degrees in forest management. Schultz doesn't. He was a timber logging executive who advanced by advocating the clear cutting of our forests. He was put in the position as Chief Forester not to enhance our forest but to be in charge of dismembering it.

forest. Nothing could be further from the truth. The state of Utah, and its current administration, are strong advocates of anti-public lands ownership. They want to transfer forest ownership directly to the private sector. Utah, under governor Spencer Cox, is currently suing the federal government for the possession of 1.5 million acres of public land. It's Utah's first step to establish Utah's state interest in federal decision making. Utah wants the line between state /federal decision making gone so they control forest decisions.

Let's be clear. Under the Trump agenda three things will occur. First, the Washington D.C. office will be closed and moved to Utah. Second, every regional Forest Service office will be closed and the well trained employees will lose their jobs. The recent axing of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) jobs is a prime example of what will occur within the USFS. Of their workforce, 87% of BLM's staff lost their jobs. And last, the finest forest research program that exists on earth will be destroyed. The Trump Administration's goal for the USFS is not a reorganization. *It's an extinction.*

The Trump newly picked FS Chief uses the term "consolidated" to define what is happening to 50 research and development facilities in 31 states. The reality is decades of research sites that require specific forest watersheds in unique ecosystems will be lost forever. "The Hatch" authors emphasized, "You cannot move a thirty year watershed study. You cannot relocate a decades-long old-growth monitoring program. You cannot box-up a forest and ship it to Colorado. When these facilities close, the experiments die. The datasets end. The partnerships built with universities that took generations to build collapse. And the interstitial knowledge of scientists who ran the program walks out the door, because the Trump administration damn well knows most of them won't follow a forced relocation to a single consolidated office that has nothing to do with the ecosystems they've spent their careers studying. This was the

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**Public Lands**

A prime example of the Trump administrations destroying the Forest Service is by moving the services headquarters to Salt Lake City, Utah. Schultz advocated the move saying the service should be moved to a state closer to the nation's

(continued from pg 18) most respected forestry program on the planet."

Our current understanding of land management, wildfire behavior, the pathology within our forest, watershed

health, carbon storage, old-growth ecology, and our rapidly changing climate exists because of their research. Why do the current forestry Chief and Trump's people want to demolish these programs? They claim it's too expensive. Examination of the FS finances show it isn't. They also

claim the research methodology is inefficient and needs to be centralized. But by its very nature forest research has to be decentralized. They are attempting to destroy forest research because, by its existence, the science makes it obvious the administration's and Tom Schultz's statements are dead wrong. They want to demolish the science so no one can refute their actions and become obstacles to their plans.

They have a multiplicity of ways to destroy what we have. First, they will remove the Services source of income for staff, and the staff's expertise and authority. They have already gutted 25% of the BLM's staff. They are currently in the process of trying to eliminate all of the FS's research income. They are also actively working on the agency's ability to function with mass firings and initiating programs intended to discourage career employees so they leave the agency. They have broken and initiated programs that serve their interests such as building roads into areas that are currently protected, for logging and mining.



Forest clear cut.

They want to privatize all of America's national public forests and make them available to the private sector, industry, and states like Utah. They are also attempting to dismantle the EPA (Environmental Protection Act) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). They have

voided the Roadless Rule for our Nation Forests and have opened all of Alaska's wildlands to the industrial sector.

With all the attacks on the FS it still has some legislative resources. It is imperative we contact our Senators and members of the House and demand action.

President Trump has carried out the impending total destruction of the U.S. Forest Service with no congressional approval or action. When you contact your Senator and your congressional Representative, don't just tell them you oppose the President's illegal actions. Tell them you vehemently oppose the destruction of the U.S. Forest Service. Tell them you strongly object that FS workers and scientists who have dedicated their lives and careers to public service are being tossed aside as if they were worthless. Tell them you are angry that 193 million acres of our forests and wildlands are being destroyed. *Get involved, step up to the plate and demand immediate action.*

The "Hatch" article made it clear. The forest belongs TO US, not politicians and corporations. Act like your life depended on it. IT DOES..